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The Story of

Edmonton School
District No. 7

1885-1935

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Published by
Edmonton Public
School Board



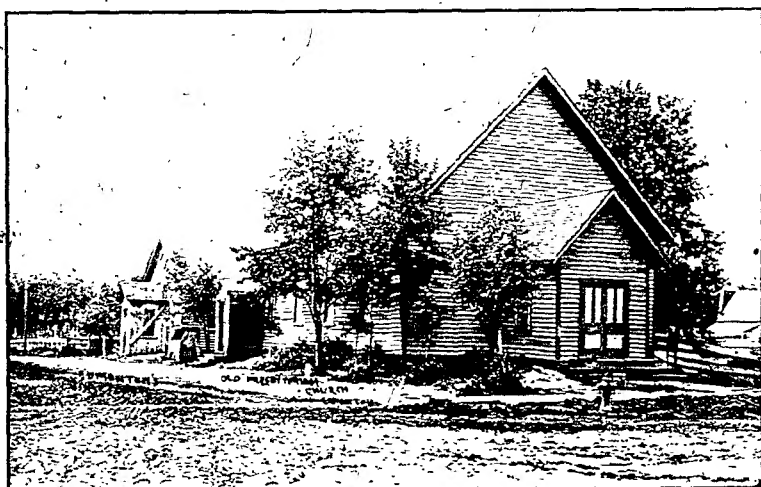
EDMONTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

NO. 7

1885 ~ 1935

BY

G. A. McKEE, B.A.
Superintendent of Schools



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FIRST BOARD 1885



D. ROSS



M. McCAULEY



W.S. ROBERTSON

PRESENT BOARD 1935



S.A.G. BARNES



DR. W. MORRISH
CHAIRMAN



S. BOWCOTT



F. G. CASSELMAN



DR. F.W. CRANG



A.E. OTTEWELL



MRS. W.J. ROSS

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

of the Organization of the

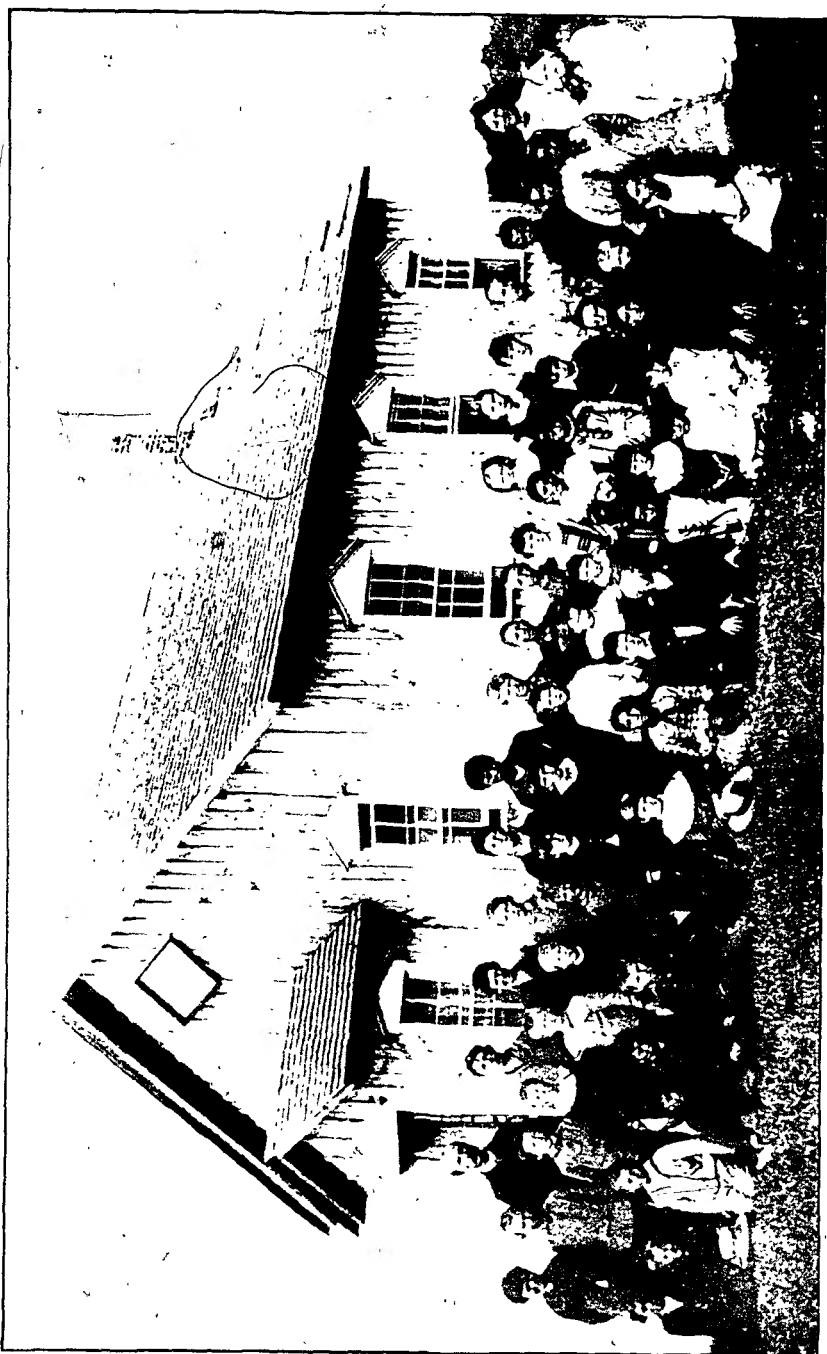
EDMONTON SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 7

Anniversary occasions are occasions of retrospect. On February 3rd, 1885, fifty years ago, Edmonton Public School District No. 7, was legally constituted by the Legislative Council of the North West Territories in the capital city of Regina. The school, of course, had come into the institutional life of the community some four years previously in 1881, but the School District was not legally constituted until four years later. Since that time one building has grown into fifty-two; four lots have increased to 163½ acres; a plant worth \$968.00 has expanded into a plant valued at \$3,385,142.00; an enrolment of 25 or 30 has grown into an enrolment of 15,917; a staff of one has grown into a staff of 443; an annual expenditure of less than one thousand dollars has increased to an annual expenditure of around \$1,300,000.00. Our high school enrolment has grown from practically nothing to 4,608. All this expansion has taken place in the comparatively brief period of fifty years. The period of extensive expansion has been during the last thirty years.

The chairman of Edmonton's first school board in 1881 was Mr. Matthew McCauley, who lived until a few years ago. What thoughts and feelings must have been his as he took his position on the site of the original school building where the McKay Avenue School now stands, and recalled the early foundations which he was so instrumental in laying, and surveyed the wonderful superstructure which has since been reared. No one can study Edmonton's early educational records without being impressed with the fact that Mr. McCauley was an outstanding figure in the early educational development of this district, and the citizens of Edmonton are under an exceedingly great obligation to him for the safe and sane foundations which he was so instrumental in laying. It is fitting that his services have been recognized by the naming of a school in his honor but his relation to the system is so unique that his name ultimately should be attached to some school which is of general rather than local interest.

The real first school was held in a house on Ross Flats for the children of the employees of the Fort 1874-1876. A Dr. Verey was the teacher. There is no photograph of this building in existence. Issue No. 3 of the Edmonton Bulletin of 1880 makes no mention of school or teacher but at that time the adult population of Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan, including half breeds, was 275. The school population must have been meagre.

In 1881 Edmonton's first school was built. The organization behind it was purely voluntary. The first trustees were Matthew McCauley, William Rowland, and Malcolm Groat. Mr. McCauley was chairman during the first



Edmonton's First School, 1881

three years as well as for the five years following legal organization. The Hudson's Bay Company donated, as a school site, four lots where McKay Avenue School now stands. The money for the building was raised by private subscription. Oliver and McDonald secured the contract at a price of \$968.00. The building was ready for occupancy just one month after the citizens decided to build. The specifications of the first school are rather interesting: It was to be 24 X 30 feet, with a ten foot ceiling. The inside and outside walls were to be dressed; the outside walls battened; and the walls were to be filled with sawdust, well rammed down. The school was to have a chimney and the doors and windows were both to have two coats of paint. The room had to have a teacher's desk and twelve forms four feet long and twelve desks four feet long and a blackboard. It was the first lumber building in Edmonton.

The engaging of the teacher was undertaken by the three trustees and the Rev. A. B. Baird and Mr. R. Hardisty. The question was raised as to how the salary was to be paid. The chairman produced a guarantee list with the following heading—

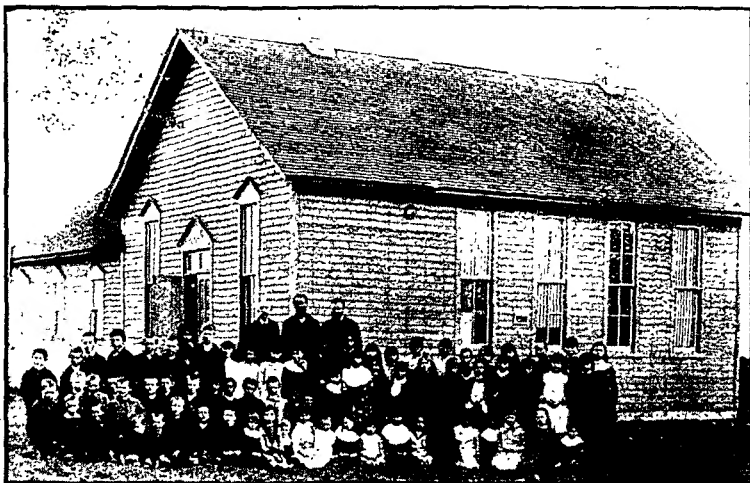
"We, the undersigned, do hereby agree to become liable to a majority of our number equally in the sum of \$500, to be paid to the teacher of a school at Edmonton for one year's service."

The signatures were—

R. Hardisty, J. Cameron, D. McLeod, J. A. McRae, R. Logan,
J. A. McDougall, J. Morris, C. Stewart, K. McDonald, M. A. Groat.

The teacher appointed was a Mr. Harris.

The question of securing a government grant was discussed. A proposal was also made to tax the pupils for the amount necessary if the grant should not be secured and subscriptions fail. The proposal to tax pupils, however, was



Two Room School (1885)

turned down in favor of the principle of an absolutely free school. Consequently the school was financed by voluntary subscription and this arrangement persisted for three years.

In 1885 the legal organization of the Edmonton School District was consummated under the educational department of the North West Territories.

It was and is still known as Edmonton (Protestant) School District No. 7. It is the oldest established school district in the Province of Alberta. A new room was added to the school at this time and another in 1891. M. McCauley, W. S. Robertson and D. Ross were the trustees with C. F. Strang, secretary. There had been some difficulty in bringing the school under the N. W. T. Ordinance owing to a distaste of certain interests and individuals who objected to the imposition of taxes, not an entirely new phenomena.

The following are the recorded minutes of the first Board meeting under legal organization—

"Minutes of a meeting of the Edmonton School Board held in M. McCauley's house, Edmonton, on the 24th day of March, 1885.

Present—M. McCauley, Chairman; D. Ross and W. S. Robertson members of the Board.

It was moved by Donald Ross and seconded by Scott Robertson that Colin F. Strang be appointed secretary for this Board for the balance of the present school year at a salary to be fixed by the trustees previous to the expiration of the year. Carried.

It was moved by W. S. Robertson and seconded by Donald Ross that Matthew McCauley be appointed Treasurer for this Board for the balance of the present school year. Carried.

The application of Colin F. Strang for the position of assessor for this Board at forty dollars for the year read and considered.

It was moved by W. S. Robertson and seconded by Donald Ross that the application of Colin F. Strang for the position of assessor and at the salary stated, namely forty dollars, be accepted. Carried.

It was moved by W. S. Robertson and seconded by Donald Ross that the chairman procure from the Lieutenant Governor such books and forms as may be necessary for this Board. Carried.

It was moved by Donald Ross and seconded by W. Scott Robertson that the secretary get from John Cameron the books, etc., belonging to the old Board. Carried.

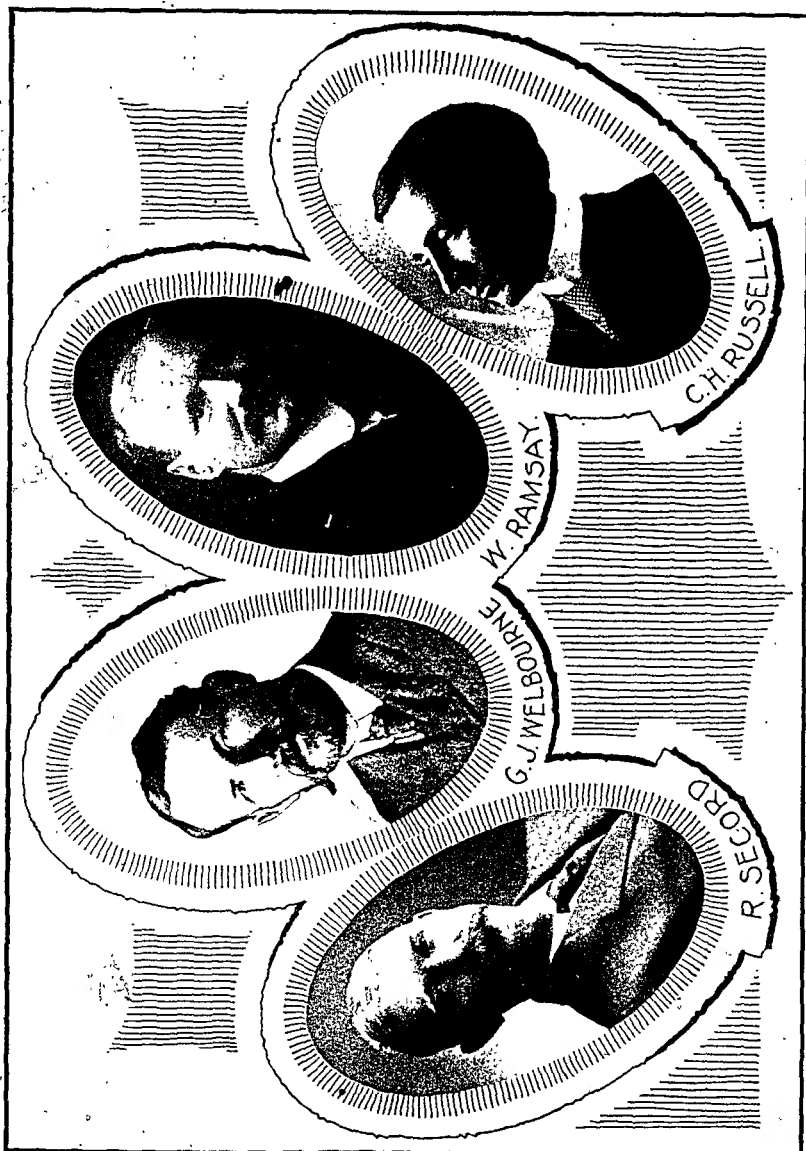
It was moved by Donald Ross and seconded by W. Scott Robertson that this Board now adjourn to meet on Saturday, the 28th inst., at 7 p.m., at the same place. Carried.

C. F. Strang,
Secretary.

Matthew McCauley,
Chairman."

Mr. Richard Secord was the first teacher under the new organization, at a salary of \$800 per annum. The Board in these early days had a habit of re-engaging teachers each year, and applications were regularly called for preparatory to the new school year. At the meeting of the Board, February 3rd, 1886, two applications were received, one from Mr. Secord at \$80 a month and one from Mr. W. H. Carson at \$75 a month. The resolution of the Board was as follows—

"The applications of W. H. Carson and Richard Secord for the position of teacher of the public school for the balance of the term ending April 1st next having been read, it was moved by Mr. Cameron and seconded by Mr. D. Ross: That as W. H. Carson's offer (\$75.00 per month) is the lowest that the same is hereby accepted and his duties to commence from the 8th instant and that the secretary notify him to that effect."



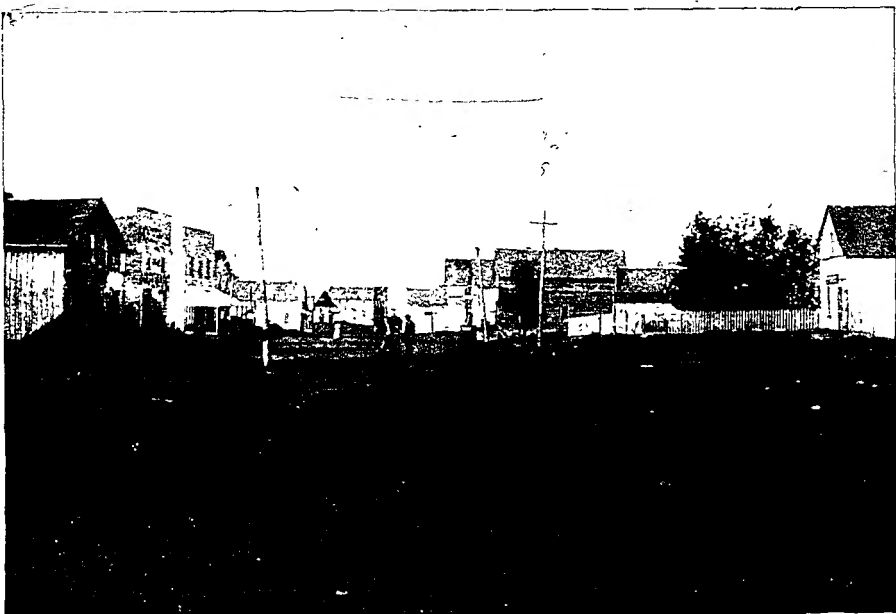
Early Teachers

Even in 1886 we had the non-resident problem with us. At a meeting of the Board, May 7th, 1886, it was moved by John Cameron and seconded by Donald Ross—

"That children outside of the school district attending the Edmonton Protestant Public School, whose parents do not pay taxes to the school, be charged at the rate of two dollars per quarter from the 1st of February last." Apparently these fees were no easier to collect in those days than they are now, as we read that, at a meeting of the Board held Monday, September 20th, it was moved by John Cameron and seconded by Donald Ross—

"That the secretary again notify non-residents (not paying taxes) sending children to the public school that they must pay up."

At a meeting of the Board Nov. 16th, 1886, a change of teachers was affected. Mr. James Martin of Portage La Prairie was engaged at a salary of \$800.00 per annum duties to commence January 1st, 1887. Mr. Martin remained



Jasper Avenue (1890)

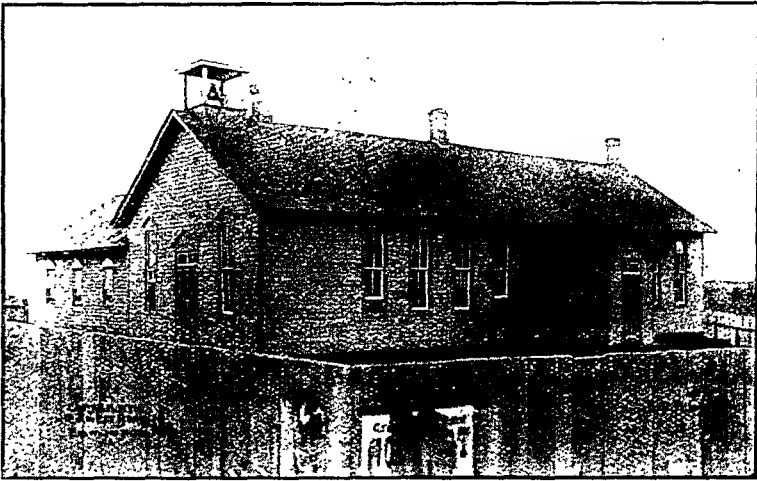
principal until the end of 1890. In 1888 a second teacher in the person of Mr. Wm. Stiff was engaged. In 1889 Miss Lillian Osborne succeeded Mr. Stiff as assistant teacher. Miss Osborne served the boys and girls of Edmonton for a long period of time, until her death occurred a few years ago. There are boys and girls in our schools today who will remember Miss Osborne.

The year 1890 witnessed the authorization of a night school service. It was moved by Mr. J. A. McDougall and seconded by John Cameron—

"That this Board at the request of a number of the largest ratepayers of the district do grant the sum of \$25 monthly for four months from date for the purpose of holding night school for three evenings in the week, should the attendance after the first month average ten." While not conducted continu-

ously from that time to the present, this night school work has now become one of the outstanding features of the local school system. In the same year we have the beginning of our formal work in Physical Education. It was moved by J. A. McDougall and seconded by M. McCauley: "That the teacher be instructed to teach calisthenics in conformity to the ordinance." In the intervening years this phase of our service has been highly developed under the direction of Mr. A. Huecker, Mr. C. K. Flint and Major Kennedy.

During the next three years we have a series of changes in the principalship of the school. For 1891, Mr. Martin was succeeded by Mr. Edgar Richardson, a well-known resident of the city until a few years ago. Mr. Richardson held the position for but one year and was succeeded by Mr. M. J. Fletcher who retired from the position towards the close of the year. The Board filled the position temporarily by appointing Mr. George Welbourne as acting



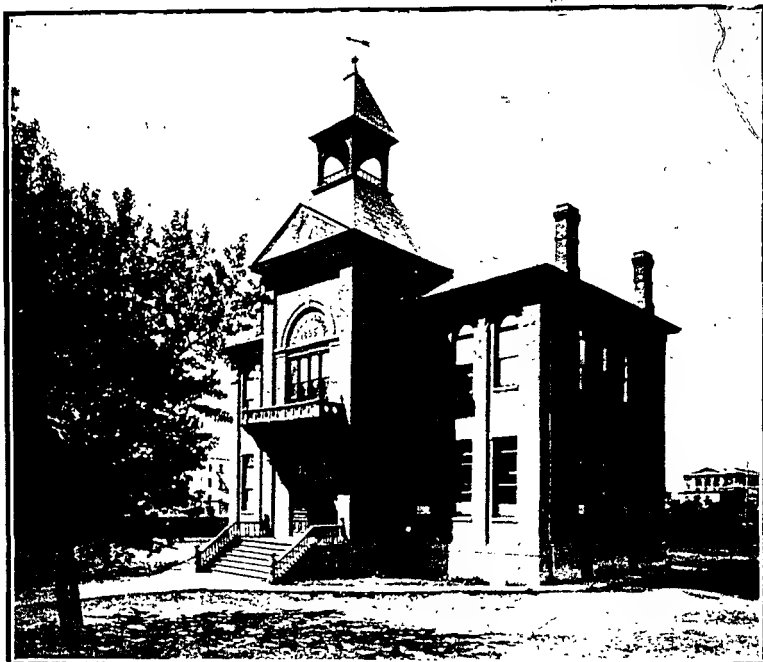
Three Room School (1891)

principal for the balance of the year. Mr. Welbourne is a highly respected old-timer in the Winterburn district today. Mr. A. M. Campbell held the principalship for the next two years.

In the year 1893, we have the first official medical inspection of the pupils. On January 11th, 1893, it was moved: "That on account of reports regarding some kind of infectious disease being prevalent among the scholars, the chairman be requested to have the Town Medical Health Officer make an inspection of the school." Since that time one of the most efficient school medical departments in Canada has been developed in connection with our service under the direction of Dr. D. J. Dunn. The beneficial effect of the work of this department in our schools cannot be estimated.

In the year 1894 negotiations for the selection and purchase of a new school site were commenced. Considerable difference of opinion developed with regard to the sites suggested. After considerable discussion and negotiation, a piece of the Methodist Church property was secured as a site for the new school. This Methodist Church property included that whole area south of Jasper and between 100th Street and 101st Street. The contract for the building was let to Mr. K. A. McLeod for \$6,257.00. The new building was originally known as the College Avenue School, and was located immediately in front of the

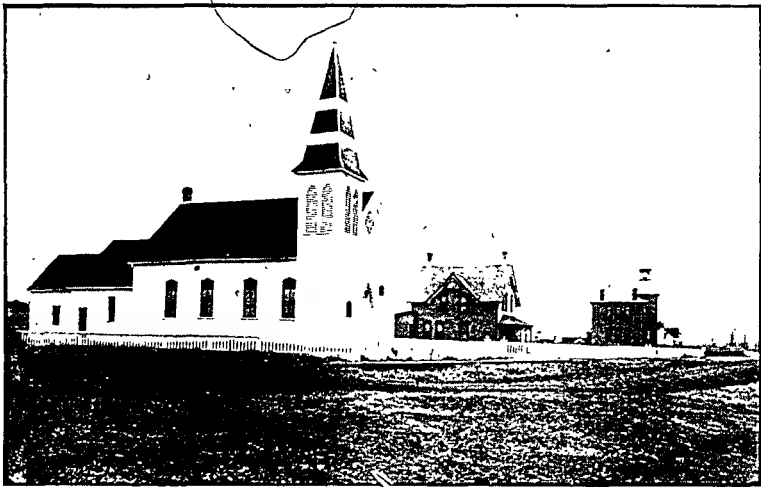
present Memorial Hall. For a number of years it served as a public school, but ultimately became the Edmonton High School, and served as such until displaced by the present Victoria High School. The first principal in this school was Mr. K. W. McKenzie who subsequently retired from teaching to engage in the book and stationery business. Mr. McKenzie had the distinction of being the first mayor of the City of Edmonton. Subsequently he returned to teaching and was a valued member of the staff of Victoria High School until his death a few years ago.



College Avenue School (1894)

In 1896 the question of teaching music in the schools was raised by a petition presented to the Board asking that a Miss Rogers teach the music. The discussion ended in a resolution that the Principal have music placed on the time-table of the two lower rooms, but no provision was made for a special teacher. Our advance along this line in the intervening years has been marvelous. The achievements of Edmonton Public School children in choral work and in sight singing are well known. The high standard of attainment in this department is, without doubt, due to the indefatigable efforts of Mr. J. Norman Eagleson, present supervisor of music, who was appointed in 1912.

Some interesting staff changes occurred in 1898. Mr. K. W. McKenzie was succeeded by Mr. George J. Bryan, who was at one time a well known educationalist in the Province. He, in turn, was succeeded by Mr. John T. Ross until recently Deputy Minister of Education. Miss McMasters (Mrs. Wm. Short) and Miss M. Barker, a teacher in the present Westmount School, were added to the staff. Miss Barker has the distinction of being the "dean" of the Edmonton school staff. Towards the close of the year, Mr. Walter Ramsay of Clover Bar was engaged. In the year 1899 Miss K. Chegwin and Miss B. Batrick received



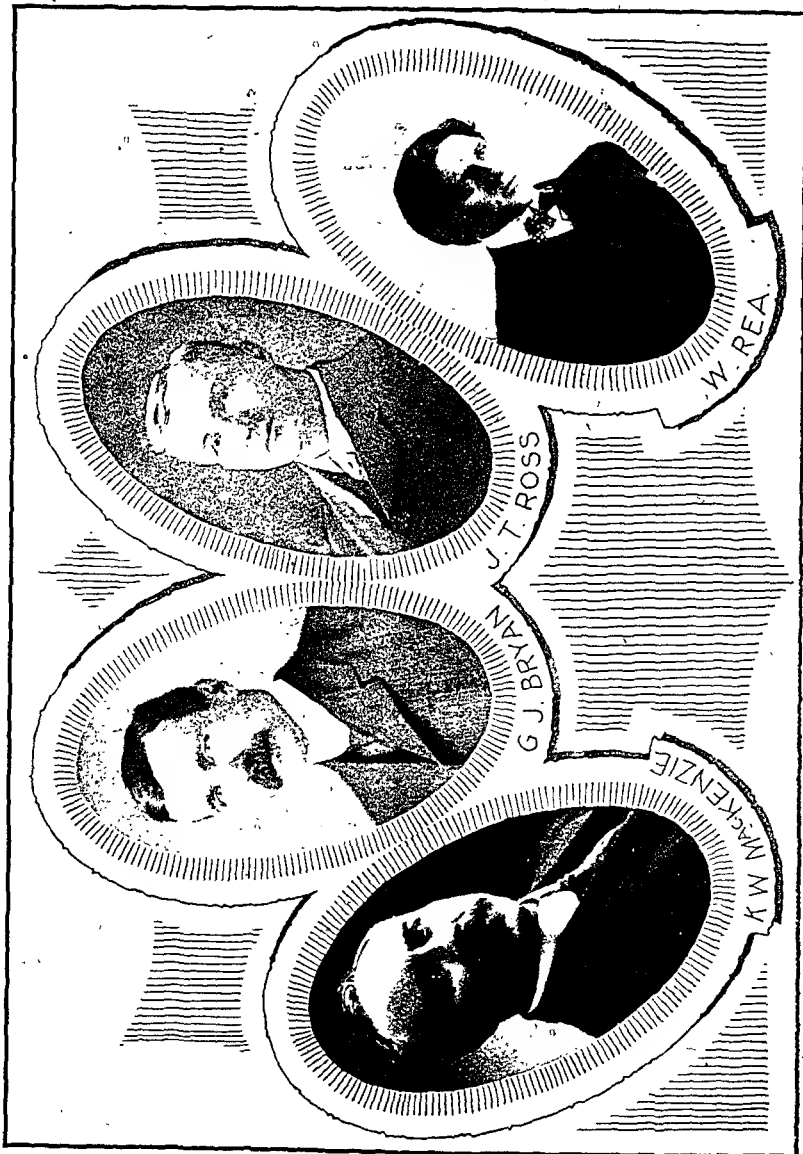
College Avenue showing McDougall Church, etc.

appointments. Miss Kate Chegwin and her sister, Emma, served for a long time and with distinction until their retirement some years ago.

— The first official authorization of Fire Drill in our schools occurred at the Board meeting of May 3rd, 1899, when trustee Strang moved, seconded by Trustee Bellamy: "That the secretary write to the Principal requesting him to institute a fire drill in the different departments of the school."



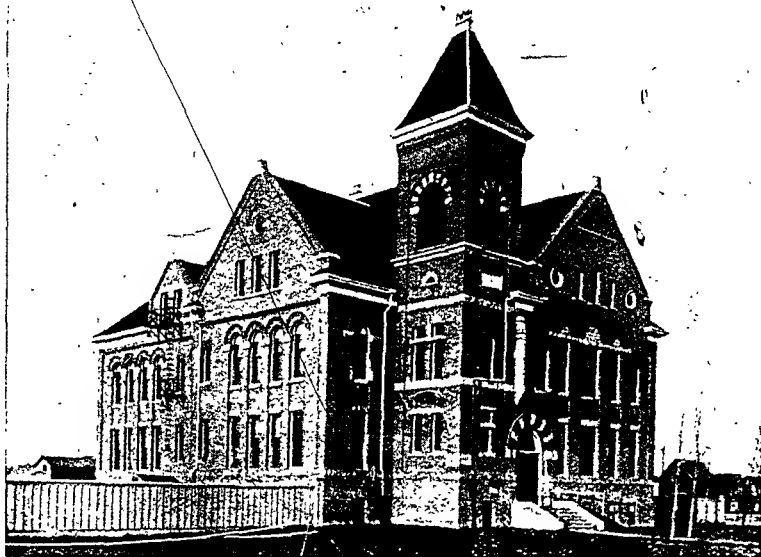
Jasper Avenue (1896)



Some Later Teachers

In 1901 the first steps were taken towards the building of a new school which became known as the Queen's Avenue School. Considerable objection was registered against the site selected. Some thought it was too far out. The original building still stands but it is not used for school purposes. It now forms part of the Canadian National Railway property. The present Queen's Avenue school is a block farther north.

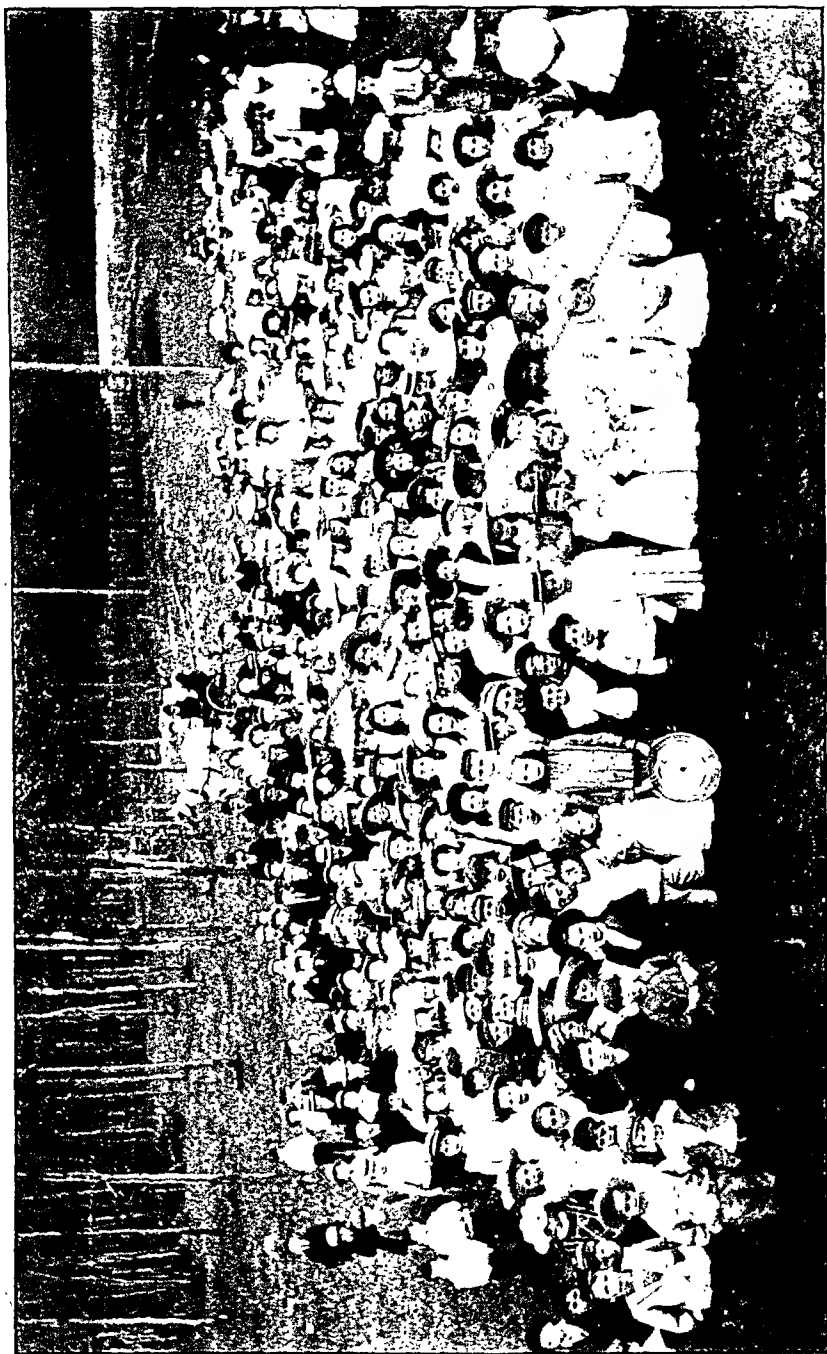
In 1902 Mr. William Rea was appointed Principal of the High and Public Schools succeeding Mr. John T. Ross, who had accepted the position of Superintendent of Education in the Yukon. Mr. Rea is still a resident of Edmonton and a citizen of much influence.



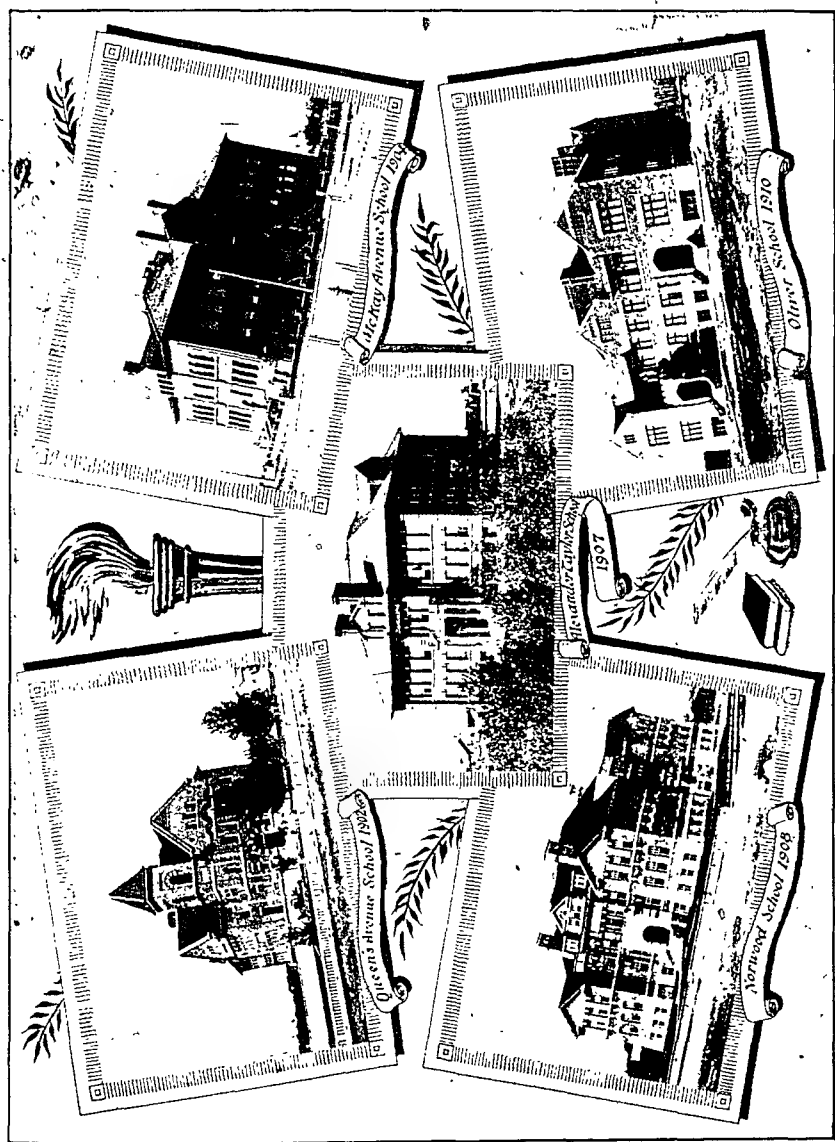
Old Queen's Avenue School

With the opening of the new Queen's Avenue building in 1903, steps were taken to differentiate public and high school work. At a meeting held on January 6th, 1903, it was moved by Mr. H. C. Taylor and seconded by Rev. H. A. Gray: "That owing to the opening of the new school, the duties of Mr. Rea be divided and that Mr. Rea be appointed to the position of Principal of the High School, and Mr. W. Ramsay to the position of Principal of the Public School." And on June 25th, 1903, it was decided to use the College Avenue building as a high school exclusively. Mr. Rea then became Principal of this school and Mr. Walter Ramsay the first Principal of the New Queen's Avenue School.

In March, 1904, steps were taken to build an eight room school on the original McKay Avenue site. Plans submitted by Mr. H. D. Johnson were accepted and he was authorized to prepare an estimate of the proposed building. The price given was \$33,000.00 and a by-law for \$38,000.00 was passed. Mr. Manson was awarded the contract for \$31,450.00. The corner stone of this new



Edmonton Public School Picnic, 1903. Mr. Alex Taylor and Rev. D. G. McQueen in background.



Picture of Earlier Permanent Schools—McKay Avenue, Alex Taylor, Queens Avenue, Norwood and Oliver

school was laid by the then Governor General of Canada, Lord Minto. A new by-law was passed for \$44,000.00 to retire the by-law for \$38,000.00 and to provide for a deficiency to cover increased cost of heating, plumbing and fencing. The contract for the plumbing and heating was awarded to Ross Bros. At a meeting of the Board, July 21st, 1905, Mr. Charles H. Russell was appointed Principal of the McKay Avenue School. Mr. Russell is at present a well known lawyer in Wetaskiwin.

In August 1905, the Presbyterian Church requested the use of the assembly hall of the Queen's Avenue School for church and Sunday services. The Board passed a resolution regretting its inability to accede to this request as they had refused application in the past and, if it were granted in this case, a precedent would be established that would not be desirable. Considerable deviation from this policy has taken place in the intervening years. School halls are now available for all types of community activities.

In November 1905, Mr. Walter Ramsay resigned his position as Principal of the Queen's Avenue School, to enter business in the city; Mr. Russell was then made Principal of the public schools and transferred to Queen's Avenue. The late Mr. Walter Scott was named as Principal of McKay Avenue School.

In 1906 the first session of the Legislature of the Province of Alberta met in McKay Avenue School. The government was given the use of the assembly hall, the Principal's room, and the lady teachers' room. They were to cover the stairs with cocoanut matting and to pay the caretaker extra. The rent of \$400 was arranged later.

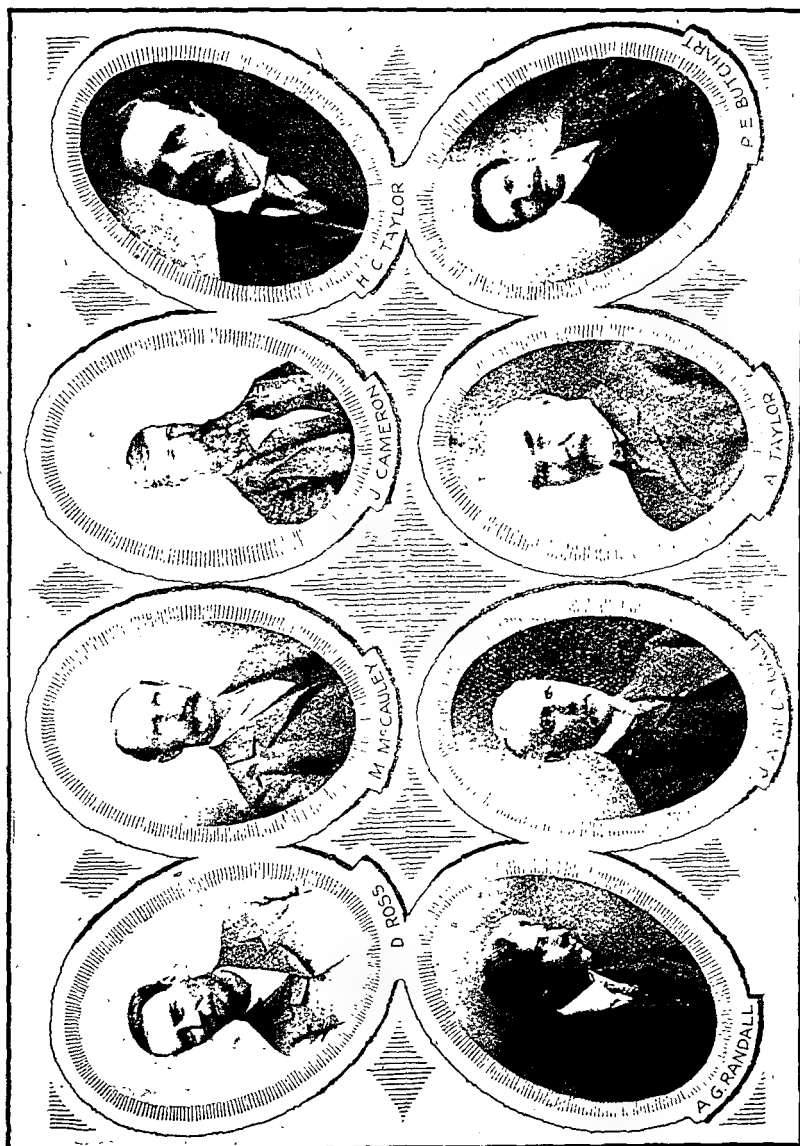
In 1906 Mr. J. A. Fife was attached to the high school staff. Mr. Fife has long been a well-known resident of this city. He is now retired, after having been associated for many years with the educational work of the community, either as a high school teacher or Inspector of schools.

At a meeting of the Board held on July 20, 1906, a committee of the Board advised the appointment of a City Superintendent of Schools. The Department of Education was to be asked to bring in legislation providing for such an office. Two nominations were made for this position, Mr. T. C. Perrett and Mr. James McCaig. The latter received the appointment. A room in the Bulletin block at \$15.00 a month became the Superintendent's office and the centre of operations for the administration of the schools of the city. Mr. McCaig was a man of marked ability and during his tenure of office, a sound and progressive policy of administration was pursued.

For a brief period after Mr. McCaig's retirement, Mr. W. L. Richardson functioned as Acting Superintendent until the position was permanently filled by the appointment of Mr. W. G. Carpenter. During Mr. Carpenter's regime, the city witnessed a remarkable expansion and the problems of the day were handled with marked skill. Mr. Carpenter retired in 1923 and was succeeded by the present Superintendent.

On October 11th, 1906, steps were taken to construct a school on Jasper Avenue to be known as Alexander Taylor School. Mr. R. Manson was given the contract for the new school and it was completed in 1907. The corner stone was laid by the Masons of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, August 30th, 1907.

In 1907 Miss J. Harley was appointed to the staff. She retired last June, after many years of faithful and efficient service, as Principal of Riverdale School. Mr. C. K. Flint was engaged as Physical Training Instructor. He continued in this position and gave most valuable service to the Board until the opening of the Great War, when he enlisted for service overseas. He sacrificed his life in the interests of his country. In 1907 Mr. F. S. Carr was appointed to the staff as Principal of Syndicate Avenue



Earlier Chairmen of Board

School. Mr. Carr later was attached to the staff of the Victoria High School and was for a number of years Principal. He died recently, after considerable service in the employ of the government as Inspector of Public Schools. In August 1907, Mr. G. W. Robertson was appointed Principal of Queen's Ave. School. After but a few months in this position, he resigned to accept an appointment to the staff of the Strathcona High School.

On November 28th, 1907, the formation of a cadet corps in the high school and each of the large public schools was authorized. This activity developed to considerable proportions and was an interesting and valuable service. It was discontinued some three or four years ago.

In April 1908, Mr. St. Geo. Jellett, who had acted as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board for a good many years, resigned and was succeeded by Mr. W. D. Bradey. Mr. Bradey's successors have been, in turn, Miss S. Wilson (now Mrs Colville), Mr. M. H. Gilmour, and Mr. H. G. Turner, the present efficient occupant of the office.

In 1908 Phaesey & Batson were awarded the contract for the building of the Norwood School. The Grand Master of the A.F. and A.M. laid the corner stone of this school, May 28th, 1908.

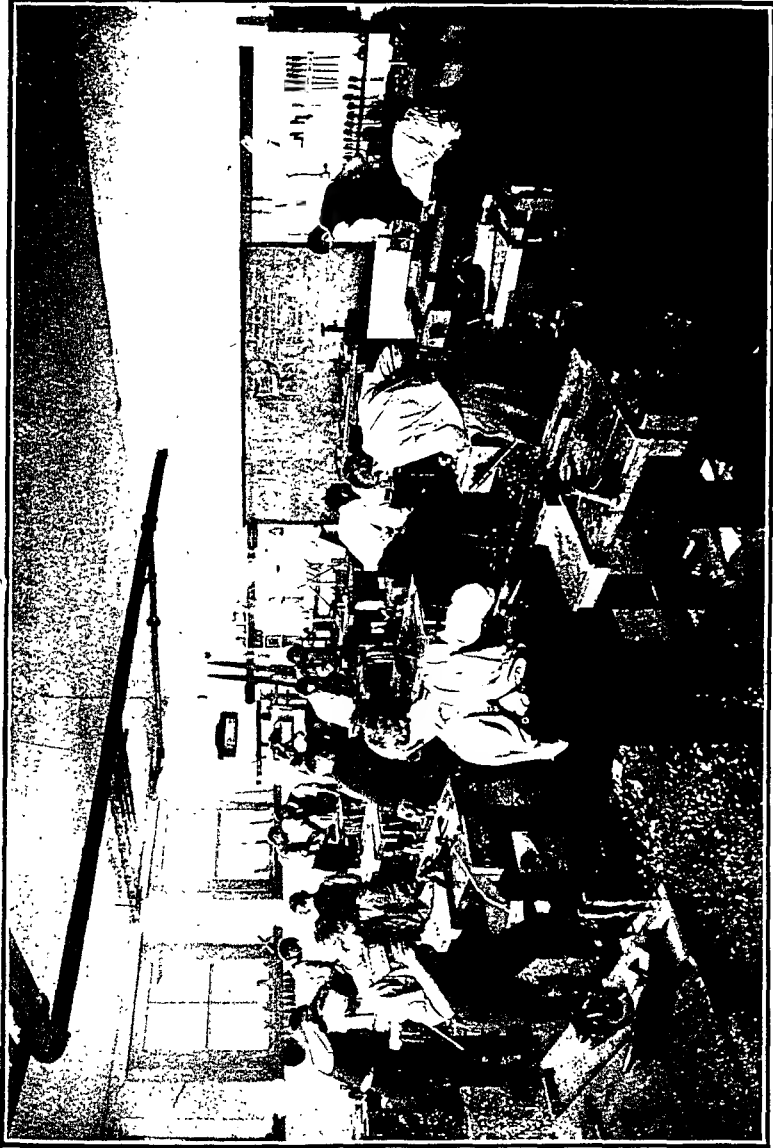
It was in the year of 1908 that steps were taken "in the matter of securing a suitable site for a high school" and "that information be secured relating to plans and specifications, up-to-date equipment, and probable cost of a high school building, large enough to meet the requirements, not only of the present but for a number of years."

After some negotiations a site was secured from the Hudson's Bay Co. Considerable discussion developed with regard to the drafting of the plans for the new school. The architects of the city and province felt that this work should be thrown open for competition, but the Board had been satisfied with the work already done by their architect, Mr. R. W. Lines, and finally decided that he should draw the plans.

In 1910 the present Victoria High School was opened. This building is a twelve room building and the only building on the north side of the river built primarily for high school purposes.



Victoria High School



Picture of Manual Training Class

High school enrolment has now reached such proportions that more high school classes are being instructed in rooms elsewhere than in this building. The Principals of this school have been: Mr. W. G. Carpenter; Mr. F. S. Carr, Mr. E. L. Fuller, and the present Principal, Mr. C. O. Hicks.

In 1908 the office of truant officer was created and subsequently Mr. Geo. Donnelly was appointed to this position. He performed the duties of this office faithfully until the time of his death some nine years ago. His successor was Mr. W. Tait who still performs the duties of the office.

In the same year a beginning was made in Manual Training and Household Science instruction. These two departments have had their ups and downs but continue to justify themselves as an essential part of the service. At one time these subjects were, to all intents and purposes, obligatory in Grade IX and X of the high school. Financial stress caused their elimination and they have never since been restored except in the case of the Grade IX pupils at King Edward School. For a time these subjects were taught in Grades VI, VII and VIII of the public schools. They passed out of Grade VI first. Then they were eliminated from Grade VII as an economy measure. Some wanted to eliminate them even from Grade VIII while others wanted to retain Manual Training but eliminate the Household Science. A few years ago they were restored to Grade VII and today we have them offered in Grades VII and VIII throughout the system and in Grade IX at King Edward. The successful operation of these two departments is in no small degree due to the conscientious and efficient direction of two supervisors, Mr. T. E. Hughes and Miss F. Hallock.

Meanwhile, on the south side of the river, the municipality of Strathcona had grown to the proportion of a city and had developed its own system of schools.

In the spring of 1892 a few of the residents of the village of South Edmonton, as it was then called, got together and decided that the children of the community should be provided with educational advantages. A public school district was organized and a trustee board elected. This district was known as South Edmonton School District No. 216 and was organized on June 17th, 1892. In 1899 the name was changed to Strathcona School District.

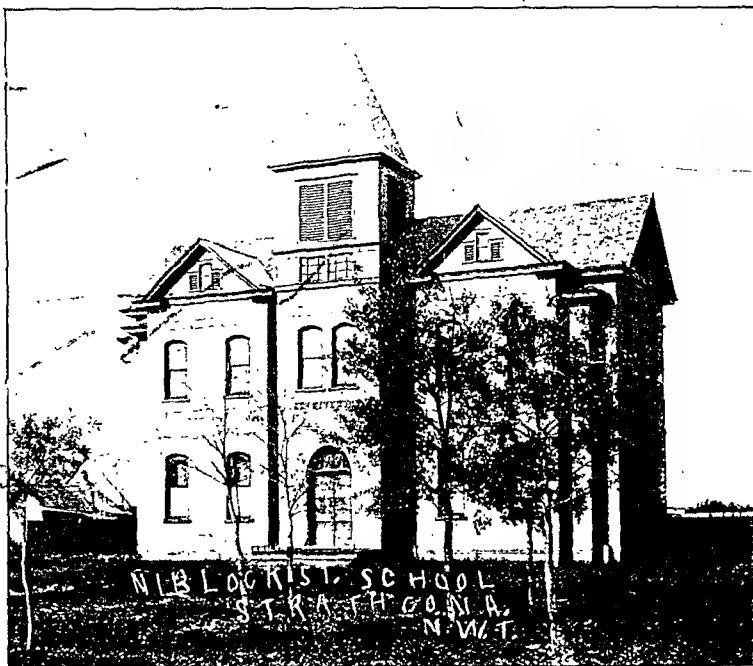


Whyte Avenue, 1895. C.P.R. Station at extreme left of picture

The first Board consisted of John Walter (chairman), Joseph McDonald and John J. McKenzie. Joseph V. Kildahl was the first secretary of the Board.

A room in a frame building, where the Dominion Hotel used to stand, was secured, and Mr. Wilkie, a Presbyterian Ministerial student, was engaged as teacher. Between 15 and 20 children assembled for instruction.

A few months later the school was moved to a little log house owned by Mr. Vic Anderson, son of Mr. Thos. Anderson of Edmonton. The year was ended with the late Mr. Wm. Douglas of Leduc as teacher.



Picture of The Niblock Street School

The number of pupils increased with the rapid growth of the village incident to the C. and E. Railway making it their northern terminus. A more commodious school building became a necessity. Plans were prepared for a frame building 20 X 30 feet with a little porch in front.

The building was erected at a cost of \$800 in the fall of 1892 on a pair of lots on Whyte Avenue about opposite the late Dr. Collison's home. Miss M. C. Clark (Mrs. J. W. Blain) became the first teacher in the new building at New Year 1893, and for six years continued to be a member of the teaching staff.

It soon became apparent that larger quarters were required, and the school board in 1894 began the erection of a solid brick four room building on the eastern half of the premises now occupied by the Strathcona High School. This school was known as the Niblock Street School.

In 1896 Mr. D. S. McKenzie was appointed Principal of the school and began his work with two assistants. Mr. McKenzie continued as principal for

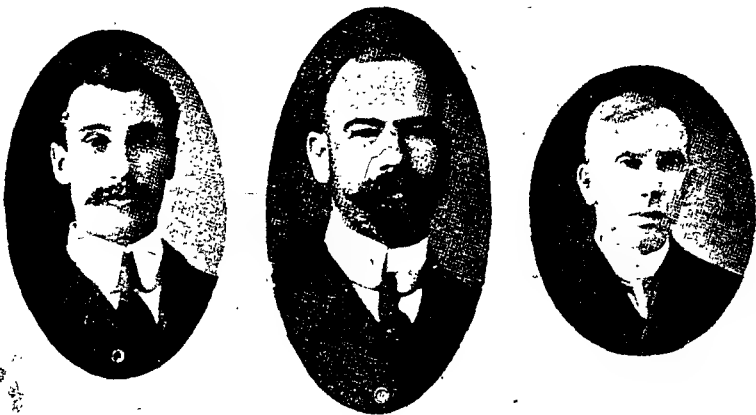
eight years, raising the schools of this city to the highest degree of efficiency. In 1900 the staff consisted of six teachers and in 1901 of seven.

In the latter year, the Grandin St. School (the present old King Edward School) was erected and was soon fully occupied.

Throughout Mr. McKenzie's regime as Principal, the late Mr. Thomas Bennett, first Mayor of Strathcona, was chairman of the Public School Board, and Dr. A. C. Rutherford, ex-premier of the Province and now chancellor of the University, was Secretary. The Bennett School is named after Mr. Thomas Bennett and the Rutherford School after Hon. A. C. Rutherford.

At New Year 1904, Mr. McKenzie resigned the principalship and was succeeded by Mr. W. H. Thompson, B.A., who continued in that capacity until midsummer 1906 when he resigned to become first an inspector of schools and soon after, vice-principal of the provincial normal school at Calgary.

At the close of Mr. Thompson's principalship, the staff numbered 12 teachers.



Early Southside Principals—W. H. Thompson, D. S. McKenzie, R. S. Jenkins

In 1906 the Board opened a fine new school building in the west end, on Duggan Street, now called the Queen Alexandra School.

It was expected that this accommodation would be ample for several years but the very rapid growth of the city in 1907 made it apparent to the School Board that still another building was necessary, and the building of the present Strathcona High School was commenced.

This fine new building was opened in February, 1909. Mr. R. S. Jenkins, M.A., succeeded Mr. Thompson and held the principalship for two years. He in turn was succeeded by the writer of this brochure.

In October 1908, the University of Alberta commenced its work in the upper rooms of the Queen Alexandra School, transferring to the Strathcona Collegiate Institute at the beginning of the year 1909. In this building, the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon Lord Strathcona.

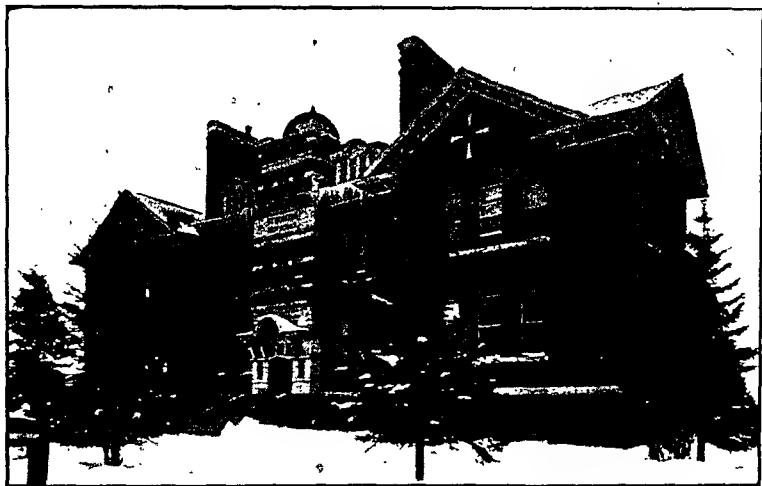
In the school year of 1908-1909 the staff of the Strathcona Public School was 17 and the enrolment about 1,000; 71 of this number being in the high school grades.

At the present time the enrolment on the south side of the river is 4,224 with a staff of 107 teachers. About 1,391 of these pupils are high school pupils.

In the year 1912 the municipalities of Edmonton and Strathcona were amalgamated and the two school districts were joined at the same time.

The personnel of the first School Board following amalgamation was: Mr. Walter Ramsay, Miss Bessie Nicholls, Mr. W. H. Clarke, Dr. John Park, Mr. S. A. G. Barnes, Dr. F. W. Crang, and Mr. J. J. McKenzie.

Miss Nicholls (Mrs. J. Spratt) has the distinction of being the first woman member of the Edmonton School Board. There have followed: Mrs. E. L. Hill, Mrs. E. T. Bishop, Mrs. W. D. Ferris, Mrs. W. J. Ross, a member of the present Board.



Strathcona High School

Since amalgamation the united city has continued to expand and many permanent buildings most creditable to the city have been erected. Included in this list are the following: King Edward, Garneau, Ritchie and Bennett Schools on the south side of the river; Calder, Donald Ross, Eastwood, H. A. Gray, North Edmonton, Highlands, McCauley, McDougall, Parkdale, Queen's Ave., Westmount, Riverdale, Cromdale and Spruce Avenue, on the north side of the river. The majority of these buildings have been constructed under the capable direction of Mr. H. Story, Building Commissioner.

In 1912 three kindergarten classes were established, two on the north side of the river and one on the south side. Three teachers were appointed for this work. These classes continued to function for a period of nine years until they were disestablished in 1921 purely for financial reasons.

In the year 1913, commercial departments were inaugurated in connection with each of the senior high schools—Strathcona and Victoria. About the same time, the creation of the Edmonton Technical School was authorized. The late trustee Dr. John Park interested himself especially in the establishment of this institution. The school is the centre of our prevocational, shop and evening class work, and functions as a most valuable contribution to the educational facilities offered the boys and girls of Edmonton. The Principals of this school since its establishment have been: Mr. W. L. Richardson, Mr. J. M. Clindinnin, Mr. P. S. Bailey, and the present Principal, Mr. M. J. Hilton.

The most urgent problem in recent years has been the problem of coping with the rapidly increasing enrolment in secondary schools. In 1910, 25 years ago, when Victoria High School—our last high school building project—was built, we

had a high school enrolment of 347 pupils. Today, as at September 30th, 1934, we have 4,574. Every ingenuity has had to be exercised to house this increasing registration, and the accommodation has been secured at the expense of the public schools. There has always been the danger that the situation would run wild and that high school rooms would be opened up here, there, and everywhere throughout the city, with the result that the Board would ultimately find it an extremely difficult and delicate problem to unscramble the situation, with its vested interests, when they would have to deal with the problem in a business and scientific way.

Strathcona High School was built in 1909. It has nine classrooms and one science laboratory. Victoria High School was built in 1910; it has 11 classrooms and one science laboratory. These two buildings are the only buildings built primarily for high school purposes and together they contain 20 rooms exclusive of the two science laboratories. At the present time we have 99 high school rooms in operation, not including those of the Technical School.



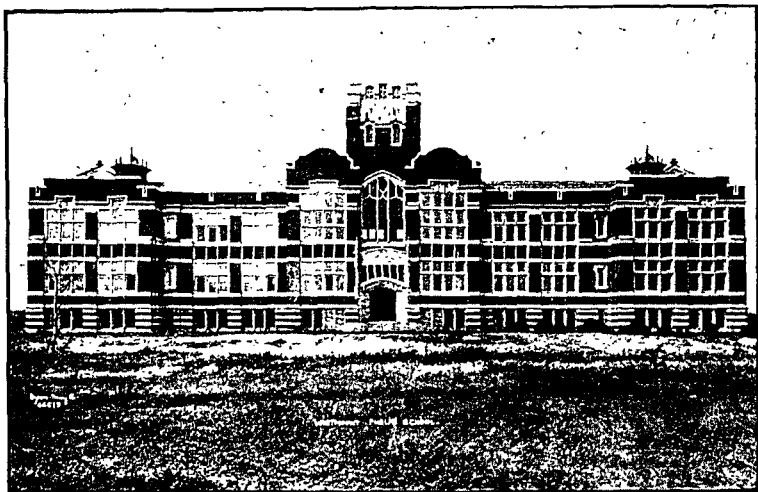
Eastwood School

In 1926 the Board finished the third floor of the Eastwood Public School, and the Eastwood High School was established under the Principalship of Mr. E. E. Hyde. When this high school was established, the secondary school work at McDougall School was confined to the commercial courses, in charge of Mr. J. P. Page. In 1927 Westmount High School became a senior high school with Mr. J. G. Taylor in charge. In the same year, the old Garneau School building was opened up for high school purposes, and Mr. G. W. Robertson placed in charge. The south side commercial, under Mr. Rose, has been given a separate existence. To take care of continuing overflow, Grade IX classes have been established in connection with the following public schools—Calder, Highlands, King Edward and Oliver. All the Grade IX work at Victoria with the exception of two classes is now done in annexes located at Riverdale, Spruce Avenue and Vermilion Avenue Schools.

The accommodation at Technical School continues inadequate. There is now a staff of 26 teachers associated with the school.



Edmonton Technical School



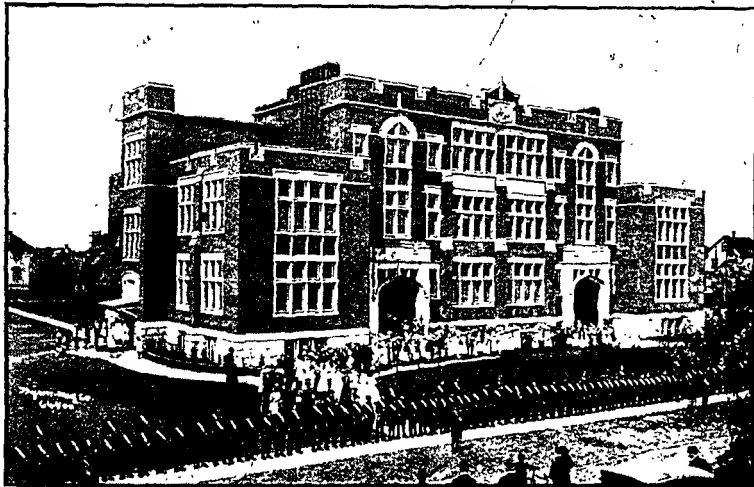
Westmount School

Behind our present high school layout lies a definite plan, awaiting a building program. Eastwood High School is the nucleus of an east end high school; Victoria School is the nucleus of a high school for the centre of the city; Westmount High School is the nucleus of a west end high school; Strathcona (Mr. R. S. Sheppard, Principal) and Garneau are the nucleus of a south side high school. In the centre of the city we have facilities for commercial and technical work available to pupils from any part of the city. This building program has been held up so long that it has now assumed such tremendous proportions that it is proving a very difficult matter to solve.



King Edward School

In 1928 a school psychologist was appointed in the person of Miss Steele but, a couple of years later, on Miss Steele's resignation, the position was dispensed with as an economy measure. Since that time, the Board has had a working arrangement with the Department of Mental Hygiene, University of Alberta, to do this work. Many teachers on our regular staff have also availed themselves of the opportunities offered in a University city of taking special training along this line.



McCauley School

In 1930 the Board introduced Bible Readings into the public schools of the city. After a great deal of laborious effort and consultation with representatives of all religious view points, a Manual of Bible Readings was prepared and printed. The readings by the teachers are confined to the selections in this manual.

In 1930 with a view to the inculcation of the habit of thrift, a school savings system, after the principle of the School Penny Bank in Ontario, was authorized. The amount of money at present on deposit to the credit of the boys and girls of the Edmonton schools is \$27,923.65. This service has been found very helpful during the period of the depression through which we have been passing.

In 1930, also, an Assistant Superintendent was appointed in the person of Mr. L. B. Yule, who, prior to the war, had been Principal of King Edward Public School in Strathcona.

In 1931 a Sight Saving Class was established in the centre of the city at Queen's Avenue School. Children with specially defective vision were sent to this class, with a view to the conservation of what eye sight they possessed. The room is specially equipped and the text books used are in large print. Miss M. Post, a teacher with special training in this line of work, was appointed instructor of the class.

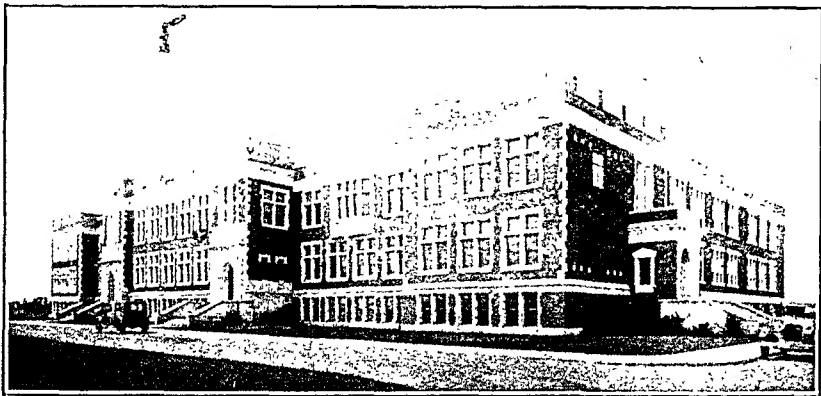
In 1934 a service for physically handicapped children was inaugurated. A visiting teacher was appointed who gives instruction to these children in their own homes inasmuch as it is impossible for them to attend school owing to their disability. The objective of this service is not alone to provide these little



Sight Saving Class

folks with instruction in such of the regular school subjects as they can handle, but also to provide them with a wider interest in life to offset the monotony of their enforced mode of living.

For a goodly number of years, a special class has been operated at Norwood School for the benefit of those children who cannot function in the regular classes of the service. Through the faithful and efficient efforts of Mrs. Peake, the teacher of this class, many a child with exceedingly circumscribed ability has been salvaged to society to the extent possible.



Edmonton Normal School

The information gained in this article has been gathered from the official records, and, obviously, lacks the personal touch which could be given by one who had been in intimate connection with the system all down through the years.

No mention has been made of the valuable inspectoral services rendered by such distinguished personages as the Rev. A. B. Baird, Dr. D. G. McQueen, and the Hon. J. A. Calder. Nor has any enumeration been made of those worthy citizens who have, from time to time, served the community so faithfully and disinterestedly as trustees and directed the policy of the city's educational development.

Nor must there be overlooked the great body of teachers who have served the boys and girls of the community down through the years. Some of them have passed away; some have left the teaching profession to enter other callings; some have retired, having served their day; some have been advanced to positions of responsibility in educational administration in the Province and elsewhere. No one can estimate the influence exerted by this body of faithful men and women who have taught in the Edmonton schools during the past fifty years. It is stated that, at the conclusion of a banquet given some time ago in his honor, an American business man, who had achieved remarkable success, was interviewed by a reporter and asked the following question: "To whom or to what incident or series of experiences do you attribute your success?" In reply he stated "that if he wished to pay homage to the individual who had meant most in his life, he would travel hundreds of miles across the country and kneel at a grave in a little churchyard cemetery in the village of his birth. There, beneath the sod, were the remains of a little school teacher who had taught him for four years and had planted a vision and an inspiration that

had moulded his whole career." I would liken that grave to the cenotaph of the "unknown warrior." That little teacher was a private in the great army of teachers throughout the world engaged in the great cumulative effort of the ages, to inculcate and perpetuate the highest ideals of living. At that shrine this successful business man pays homage. The efficient teacher of its youth is a community's greatest asset.



Arts Building, University of Alberta

This is the story of our progress during the past fifty years. It speaks for itself. The citizens of Edmonton are under a great obligation to its pioneers in this work. The beginning of the second half-century finds us facing four major problems:—

1. The provision of greater security and stability in our educational service through the attainment of a securer and more dependable means of financing.
2. The adaptation of our secondary school service to the needs of the changed high school clientele and changing social conditions.
3. The conditioning of our high school service with a plant adequate for the effective performance of its function.
4. The recognition of the fact that not all children of public school age can successfully handle the regular courses, and that a course fitted to their needs must be provided.

May those who, fifty years hence, celebrate the centenary anniversary of the establishment of Edmonton School District No. 7 be able to speak as highly of our services as we have been able to speak of the services of those who have preceded us.

CHAIRMEN OF THE EDMONTON SCHOOL BOARD SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE DISTRICT

1885—M. McCauley	1910—P. E. Butchart
1886—M. McCauley	1911—P. E. Butchart
1887—M. McCauley	1912—W. Ramsay
1888—M. McCauley	1913—W. Ramsay
1889—D. Ross	1914—W. Ramsay
1890—J. Cameron	1915—J. J. McKenzie
1891—J. Cameron	1916—S. A. G. Barnes
1892—J. Cameron	1917—W. Rea
1893—J. A. McDougall	1918—W. Rea
1894—J. Cameron	1919—H. W. B. Douglas
1895—M. McCauley	1920—F. W. Crang
1896—J. Cameron	1921—W. Rea
1897—H. C. Taylor	1922—F. Scott
1898—A. G. Randall	1923—Mrs. E. T. Bishop
1899—Alex. Taylor	1924—W. H. Alexander
1900—Alex. Taylor	1925—R. V. Bellamy
1901—Alex. Taylor	1926—F. S. McPherson
1902—Alex. Taylor	1927—E. E. Roper
1903—Alex. Taylor	1928—W. W. McBain
1904—Alex. Taylor	1929—A. T. Cushing
1905—Alex. Taylor	1930—A. E. Ottewell
1906—Alex. Taylor	1931—F. C. Casselman
1907—Alex. Taylor	1932—A. E. Ottewell
1908—Alex. Taylor	1933—L. Y. Cairns
1909—Alex. Taylor	1934—S. A. G. Barnes
	1935—W. Morrish
